



MEDIA ADVISORY

ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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ROCKFORD HEARING OFFERS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS EXCESSIVE FEDERAL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

WHO:	SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board for Region V from Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Ohio, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of federal regulations by government regulators.
WHAT:	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, the U.S. Congress has directed the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness (RegFair) hearings. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. Testimony gathered at RegFair Hearings about federal regulatory activity and comments, concerns and complaints filed with the national ombudsman are reported to Congress each year.
WHEN:	June 3, 2005 9:00 AM
WHERE:	Rock Valley College- Woodward Technology Center 3301 N. Mulford Road, Room 117 Rockford, IL 61114
MEDIA:	The hearing is open to the press and the public. In addition, Ombudsman Barrera will be available for interviews at 8:30 - 9:00 AM and after 12:00 PM June 3, 2005.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman. Phone numbers for the nearest SBA district office are available by calling the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA.